

**FUELS REDUCTION GOAL – Reduce fuels in the Wildland/Urban
Interface and Intermix:**

Current fire science has determined that fuels reduction is a critical factor in reducing catastrophic fires. This has led to partnerships between federal land management agencies, local fire agencies and private property owners to reduce excessive fuel loading on private and federal property. Firewise practices allow private property owners to utilize proven strategies to remove hazardous fuels on their properties. This will aid the national effort to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires in the Wildland/Urban Interface and Intermix. It is recommended that Blaine County provide monetary assistance and equipment to local Fire Agencies planning fuels reduction projects through the Bureau of Land Management Communities at Risk program.

- **FUELS ANALYSIS OBJECTIVE:** Map and document fuel types and densities to determine high risk and high hazard zones. Implement a countywide fuels reduction program establishing priorities based on the adopted hazard assessment program.
- **FEDERAL ISSUES OBJECTIVE:** Take into account fuels management issues of surrounding federal lands when determining and implementing local fuels reduction programs.
- **VOLUNTARY FUELS REDUCTION OBJECTIVE:**
Create a Voluntary Fuels Reduction Program.

ACTION PLAN for FUELS REDUCTION GOAL - REDUCE FUELS IN THE WUI INTERFACE

ACTION ITEMS	Description	Coordinating Agencies	Available Funding & all other Available Resources	Supplies Needed to Take Action & Complete Action	Anticipated Achievement or Outcome	Social and Environment Benefits	Milestones	Timeline
FUELS ANALYSIS Objective:	Map and document fuel types and densities to determine high risk and hazard zones. Implement a countywide fuels reduction program establishing priorities based on the adopted Hazard Assessment Program.							
Fuels Information Action Item	Provide the latest information about how to manage fuels.	BLM, FS and Rural Fire Agencies	Federal and State Grants; NFPA	Information Packets, Brochures, DVDs, Videos, Workbooks	Interest in Fuels Management	Educated Property owners	Establish a current information packet and Presentation	Mar-05
Fuel Mapping Action Item	Develop accurate mapping for the fire jurisdictions.	Fire Agencies, Alpine Enterprises, Blaine County GIS	Communities At Risk and other Fire Mitigation Grants; ESRI Community Grants;	Existing maps, aerial photos, satellite maps, fuel modeling information	Accurate Fuel Maps	Valid fuels information for fire prevention	Complete first set of maps	Oct-04
Fuel Modeling Action Item	Utilize a GIS database to target high risk areas through vegetation analysis and fuel modeling.	Fire Agencies, Alpine Enterprises, Blaine County GIS, BLM, FS	Communities At Risk Grants; Environment Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Community Grants; Blaine County	GIS database with existing maps, aerial photos, satellite maps, fuel modeling information	Maps of High Risk Areas	Awareness of High Risk Areas	Complete first set of High Risk Areas maps	Oct-04
Hazard Rating Tool Selection Action Item	Research, evaluate and select the appropriate hazard rating tools for individual property evaluation by firefighters.	Blaine County Fire Agencies	Fire Mitigation Grants	Manufacturers' information and sample tools	Selection of appropriate tools for use by fire agencies countywide	Availability of best technology for all fire agencies to assist with wildland fire prevention	Meet with fire agencies countywide to establish criteria and purchase date for tools selection	Oct-04
Hazard Assessment Action Item	Target fire hazards and risk using NFPA hazard assessment document.	Local Fire Agency	Fire Mitigation Grants	NFPA Hazard Assessment Document and assessment tools	Known area of fire hazards	Awareness of individual property's level of fire risk	Complete a demonstration project	Nov-04

Prioritization Action Item	Prioritize areas at highest risk due to fuel type, fuel density, slope, aspect, prevailing winds, access and other resource and geographic considerations.	Local Fire Agency and Alpine Enterprises	Fire Mitigation Grants	Hazard Assessment Tool with GIS database with existing maps, aerial photos, satellite maps, fuel modeling information	Prioritization of High Risk Areas	Targeting fuels reduction first to High Risk Areas.	Prioritize highest risk structures in a single targeted area.	Mar-04
Motivation Action Item	Use property hazard ratings and their effect on homeowner insurance as a motivating factor for property owners to reduce fuels and implement fire prevention measures.	Local Fire Agency, Insurance Companies	Fire Mitigation Grants; Insurance Company Grants and financial incentive programs	Property Hazard Ratings and Maps, Fire Insurance Classifications	Fuels reduction and Firewise Implementation	Firewise Homes	Explore insurance company policies regarding Firewise Practices	Jul-05
FEDERAL ISSUES Objective:	Take into account fuels management issues of surrounding federal lands when determining and implementing local fuels reduction programs.							
Federal Projects Awareness Action Item	Take into account surrounding federal and state vegetation management issues. Be aware of current programs such as 'Redzone', Pine Bark Beetle outbreak and Sawtooth City projects.	Local Fire Agencies, BLM, FS, Idaho Department of Lands	Current Fire Budget; Personnel Assistance Grants	Current Federal Agency contacts and bulletins; Sawtooth Society Newsletter	Knowledge of on-going federal and state lands vegetative status	Heightened awareness of wildland fuels issues	Arrange with BLM, FS and Sawtooth Society to receive information and newsletters on an on-going basis	Nov-04
Monoculture Prevention Action Item	Demonstrate the risk of a single species forest.	Local Fire Agencies, BLM, FS, Sawtooth Botanical Garden, Sawtooth Society	Federal Communities At Risk and other Mitigation Grants	Forest Service Silvicultural Interpretive information	Raised awareness for the importance of maintaining vegetative diversity	An appreciation of the need for diverse species forests	Obtain information about a local example of a monoculture site	Nov-05
Healthy Forests Initiative Action Item	Understand and support 'Healthy Forests Initiative'	Local Fire Agencies, FS, Sawtooth Society	Federal Agency Training Programs	Healthy Forests Initiative' document	Local firefighter understanding of Initiative	Greater understanding of a complex fire related issue	Arrange a training course for firefighters	Jan-05
Federal Partnership Action Item	Partner with federal agencies regarding proactive solutions to fuel and disease issues.	Local Fire Agencies, FS, Sawtooth Society, BLM	Federal Communities At Risk and other Mitigation Grants	Federal Agency information and training regarding fuels and disease issues	Exchange of Information and Development of Partnerships	Working partnerships established between local and federal fire agencies	Establish a regular meeting schedule for information exchange with local FS, BLM and Sawtooth.	Dec-04

Interface Action Item	Create an understanding that both private and public interface lands are potential sources of catastrophic fire.	Local Fire Agencies, BLM, FS	Federal Communities At Risk and other Mitigation Grants	Firewise materials and educational packets	Increased awareness of private property as a potential fire source	People taking responsibility for fuels reduction on their own property.	Implement an awareness program for private property fuels reduction	Jul-05
VOLUNTARY FUELS REDUCTION Objective:	Create a voluntary fuels reduction program.							
Local Assistance Action Item	Provide a contact list to residents and property owners of people available to assist them with Firewise projects.	Local Agencies, Property Managers and Homeowners Associations	Current Fire Budget; Fire Mitigation Grants	Contact information and phone directories	A list of all professionals associated with Firewise projects	Readily available Firewise advice and fuels mitigation assistance	Create the draft Firewise Advisory Contact List	Feb-05
Education Action Item	Educate people how to voluntarily participate in fuels mitigation.	Local Fire Agencies, BLM, FS, Landscaping Industry	Current Fire Budget; Fire Mitigation Grants	Neighborhood Firewise Workshop Information	Voluntary participation in fuels reduction programs	Reduced fuels and more survivable space	Do a fuels reduction demonstration project using volunteer participants.	May-05
Landscaping Action Item	Incorporate aesthetic Firewise landscaping to create survivable spaces. Demonstrate distinctions between hardscape and landscape elements and their Firewise benefits.	Local Fire Agencies, Local Landscape Architects, Local Landscape Nurseries and Contractors	Current Fire Budget; Fire Mitigation Grants	Firewise Landscaping Information	Private property owner acceptance of Firewise landscaping techniques	Reduced fuels and more survivable space	Showcase a Firewise landscaping project	Jul-05
Technology Action Item	Use technology such as Redzone, Web sites and e-mail to contact people with fire hazard and mitigation information.	Local Fire Agencies, BLM, FS.	Current Fire Budget; Fire Mitigation Grants	The technology: Computers, software, digital tools	Increased access to fire hazard and fuel mitigation information	Greater public awareness and increased involvement by absentee homeowners regarding fire mitigation	Establish a local fuels mitigation and Firewise practices Web Site	May-05

Home Assessment Action Item	Provide suggestions to homeowners for assessing and rating their homes.	Local Fire Agencies	Current Fire Budget; Fire Mitigation Grants	Fire Hazard Assessment and Rating Tool	Hazard rating assessments for private homes	Homeowner's knowledge of their hazard rating	Introduce and publicize the availability of a Home Hazard Assessment Program	May-05
Grants for Citizen Aid Action Item	Seek grants and assistance opportunities to aid citizens in voluntarily reducing fuel loads on their property.	Local Fire Agencies, Agricultural Extension Agents, BLM, FS, Blaine County	Americorps Grant; Federal and State Grants; NFPA; fire mitigation grants	The Internet and Library Resources	Additional Funding	Financial Aid to Reduce Fuel Loads	Apply for a grant for a fuels reduction project	Feb-05
Neighborhood Fuel Reduction Action Item	Include grassroots-level suggestions for organizing neighborhood fuel mitigation efforts.	Local Fire Agencies, Homeowners Associations, Property Managers, Business Owners, Residents	Current Fire Budget; Fire Mitigation Grants	Meeting locations and contact lists for holding workshops or mailing survey to solicit ideas	A collection of grassroots ideas	Local participation in planning fuels mitigation projects	Plan a workshop or mail a survey to solicit ideas.	Jul-05
Demonstration Action Item	Demonstrate to people in a how-to format what they can do at home to mitigate fuels. Provide a check list of tasks for the individual to accomplish.	Local Fire Agencies, Homeowners Associations, Property Managers, Business Owners, Residents, BLM, FS	Current Fire Budget; Fire Mitigation Grants	Demonstration Tools and Checklists and Demonstration Location	People trained in fuels mitigation through demonstration	Homeowners learn new skills to be self reliant in reducing fuels around their property	Plan and schedule the first 'how-to' demonstration and provide a checklist	Jun-05
Community Collection Sites Action Item	Establish sites for community drop-off and recycling locations for pruned and removed fuels.	Local Fire Agencies, Blaine County Solid Waste District, Ohio Gulch Transfer Station, ERC, Homeowners Associations, Property Managers, Local Municipality	Current Fire Budget; Fire Mitigation Grants	Drop-off locations, chippers, pellet-producing machinery, collection containers, and agreements in place with local transfer stations	Established drop-off and recycling sites for fuels mitigation projects	Reduced Fuels, Recycled Biomass and Reusable wood products	Organize and coordinate the first community fuels reduction event with drop-off locations and recycling capabilities	Jun-05

Fuels Reduction Treatments proposed in Blaine County

Fuel Hazard Ranking	Project	Purpose and Need	Coordinating Agencies	Benefit to the Community	Location	Description	Approx. Acres	Polygon
EXTREME	Smiley Creek	Reduce the Hazardous Fuels surrounding homes in the Urban Interface by establishing perimeters of allowable vegetation at the 30, 50 and 100 foot radii. Remove dead trees on property beyond perimeter radii.	Funding and equipment provided by Blaine County. Treatments to be carried out by Smiley Creek Fire Protection District. Coordinate efforts with surrounding Federal Agencies.	Reduces the threat of wildland fires spreading to homes and creates survivable space. The health of the forest is improved as is wildlife habitat. Treatment provides some economic opportunities.	Forest Service, BLM, and private lands adjacent to homes in the Smiley Creek Subdivision.	Mechanically treat overgrown, dense conifer stands. Limb up and thin landscaped areas around homes using hand tools. Use chippers or pelletizer equipment to recycle biomass products. Need additional water supply, need to keep access roadways clear.	10	Conifer 17
HIGH	Beaver Creek, Justus Ranch	Reduce the Hazardous Fuels surrounding homes in the Urban Interface by establishing perimeters of allowable vegetation at the 30, 50 and 100 foot radii.	Funding and equipment provided by Blaine County. Treatments to be carried out by contracted group. Coordinate efforts with surrounding Federal Agencies.	Reduces the threat of wildland fires spreading to homes and creates survivable space. The health of the forest is improved as is wildlife habitat. Treatment provides some economic opportunities.	Forest Service, BLM, and private lands adjacent to homes in the Beaver Creek area.	Mechanically treat overgrown, dense conifer stands. Limb up and thin landscaped areas around homes using hand tools. Use chippers or pelletizer equipment to recycle biomass products.	25	Conifer 20
Mod-High	West of Little Wood Reservoir Road	Reduce the Hazardous Fuels surrounding homes in the Urban Interface by establishing perimeters of allowable vegetation at the 30, 50 and 100 foot radii.	Funding and equipment provided by Blaine County. Treatments to be carried out by Carey Fire Protection District. Coordinate efforts with surrounding Federal Agencies.	Reduces the threat of wildland fires spreading to homes and creates survivable space. The health of the forest is improved as is wildlife habitat. Treatment provides some economic opportunities.	BLM and private lands adjacent to homes near West of Little Wood Reservoir Road, Foothill, Dry Creek Roads.	Mechanically treat the areas of sage brush. Limb up and thin landscaped areas around homes using hand tools. Use chippers or pelletizer equipment to recycle biomass products.	350	Shrub 76

Mod-High	Scott Road, Carey	Reduce the Hazardous Fuels surrounding homes in the Urban Interface by establishing perimeters of allowable vegetation at the 30, 50 and 100 foot radii.	Funding and equipment provided by Blaine County. Treatments to be carried out by Carey Fire Protection District. Coordinate efforts with surrounding Federal Agencies.	Reduces the threat of wildland fires spreading to homes and creates survivable space. The health of the forest is improved as is wildlife habitat. Treatment provides some economic opportunities.	BLM and private lands adjacent to homes in the new Scott Road Subdivision.	Mechanically treat the areas of sage brush. Limb up and thin landscaped areas around homes using hand tools. Use chippers or pelletizer equipment to recycle biomass products.	33	Shrub 80
Moderate	North of Carey, between Austin, Little Wood Reservoir, and Barton Roads.	Reduce the Hazardous Fuels surrounding homes in the Urban Interface by establishing perimeters of allowable vegetation at the 30, 50 and 100 foot radii.	Funding and equipment provided by Blaine County. Treatments to be carried out by Carey Fire Protection District. Coordinate efforts with surrounding Federal Agencies.	Reduces the threat of wildland fires spreading to homes and creates survivable space. The health of the forest is improved as is wildlife habitat. Treatment provides some economic opportunities.	BLM and private lands adjacent to homes north of Carey.	Mechanically treat the areas of sage brush. Limb up and thin landscaped areas around homes using hand tools. Use chippers or pelletizer equipment to recycle biomass products.	175	Shrub 78
Moderate	Little Wood Reservoir Road, south of the Reservoir	Reduce the Hazardous Fuels surrounding homes in the Urban Interface by establishing perimeters of allowable vegetation at the 30, 50 and 100 foot radii.	Funding and equipment provided by Blaine County. Treatments to be carried out by Carey Fire Protection District. Coordinate efforts with surrounding Federal Agencies.	Reduces the threat of wildland fires spreading to homes and creates survivable space. The health of the forest is improved as is wildlife habitat. Treatment provides some economic opportunities.	BLM and private lands adjacent to homes along Little Wood Reservoir Road.	Mechanically treat the areas of sage brush. Limb up and thin landscaped areas around homes using hand tools. Use chippers or pelletizer equipment to recycle biomass products.	1000	Shrub 77
Moderate	Near Gannett and along Punkin Center Road	Reduce the Hazardous Fuels surrounding homes in the Urban Interface by establishing perimeters of allowable vegetation at the 30, 50 and 100 foot radii.	Funding and equipment provided by Blaine County. Treatments to be carried out by Carey Fire Protection District. Coordinate efforts with surrounding Federal Agencies.	Reduces the threat of wildland fires spreading to homes and creates survivable space. The health of the forest is improved as is wildlife habitat. Treatment provides some economic opportunities.	BLM and private lands adjacent to homes near Gannett and along Punkin Center Road.	Mechanically treat the areas of sage brush. Limb up and thin landscaped areas around homes using hand tools. Use chippers or pelletizer equipment to recycle biomass products.	150	Shrub 70,82
Moderate	Near Picabo and along Picabo Desert Road	Reduce the Hazardous Fuels surrounding homes in the Urban Interface by establishing perimeters of allowable vegetation at the 30, 50 and 100 foot radii.	Funding and equipment provided by Blaine County. Treatments to be carried out by Carey Fire Protection District. Coordinate efforts with surrounding Federal Agencies.	Reduces the threat of wildland fires spreading to homes and creates survivable space. The health of the forest is improved as is wildlife habitat. Treatment provides some economic opportunities.	BLM and private lands adjacent to homes near Picabo and along Picabo Desert Road.	Mechanically treat the areas of sage brush. Limb up and thin landscaped areas around homes using hand tools. Use chippers or pelletizer equipment to recycle biomass products.	125	Shrub 91

Moderate	West Magic	Reduce the Hazardous Fuels surrounding homes in the Urban Interface by establishing perimeters of allowable vegetation at the 30, 50 and 100 foot radii.	Funding and equipment provided by Blaine County. Treatments to be carried out by West Magic Fire Protection District. Coordinate efforts with surrounding Federal Agencies.	Reduces the threat of wildland fires spreading to homes and creates survivable space. The health of the forest is improved as is wildlife habitat. Treatment provides some economic opportunities.	BLM and private lands adjacent to homes in the West Magic Area	Mechanically treat the areas of sage brush. Limb up and thin landscaped areas around homes using hand tools. Use chippers or pelletizer equipment to recycle biomass products. Mowing to create a buffer for fire access and evacuation along all access roadways.	5	Shrub 67,68
Moderate-Low	Beaver Creek and Sawtooth City Vicinity, and North to County Line	Reduce the Hazardous Fuels surrounding homes in the Urban Interface by establishing perimeters of allowable vegetation at the 30, 50 and 100 foot radii.	Funding and equipment provided by Blaine County. Treatments to be carried out by West Magic Fire Protection District. Coordinate efforts with surrounding Federal Agencies.	Reduces the threat of wildland fires spreading to homes and creates survivable space. The health of the forest is improved as is wildlife habitat. Treatment provides some economic opportunities.	Forest Service and private lands adjacent to homes in the Northern section of Blaine County	Mechanically treat the areas of sage brush, thin conifer stands. Limb up and thin landscaped areas around homes using hand tools. Use chippers or pelletizer equipment to recycle biomass products. Mowing to create a buffer for fire access and evacuation along all access roadways.	to be determined by Forest Service	

Estimated acres in these spreadsheets represent private land that could be treated. The United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management should make their own judgment of how many acres to treat on their respective properties.

Hazard Maps

These maps were created to show the areas of high fuel loading in Blaine County. The fuel loading data was created following Bureau of Land Management (BLM) standards in order to connect fuel mapping on BLM land with the fuel mapping this project has completed on private land. To analyze the fuel loading, digital orthophotos of Blaine County were used to determine vegetation type. Field work was completed throughout the county to determine the condition of the vegetation. An extensive questionnaire was completed at each site and photographs were taken to document the condition of the vegetation. The data collected in the field was compiled and processed through the BLM's hazard ranking scheme. (Please see BLM fuels metadata appendix for more details.) Along with the hazard-ranked areas, these maps show fire agency boundaries, parcel lines delineating private parcels, and all county roads. They show the densely populated areas in proximity to areas of high and extreme fire risk. The BLM has been conducting field work to determine the extent of hazardous fuels on their lands within Blaine County and our data is designed to be stitched together theirs upon its completion.

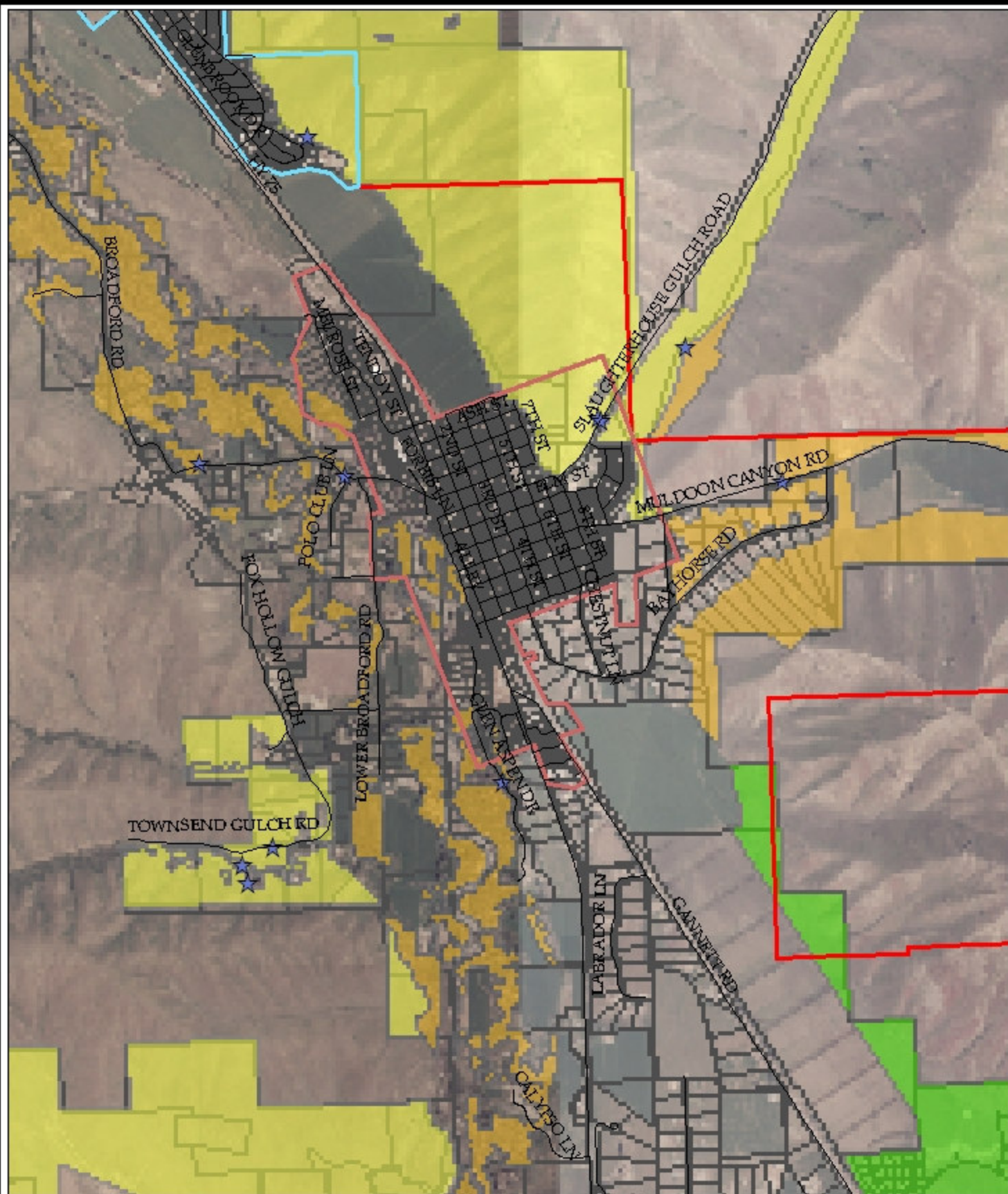
Hazardous Fuel Rankings for areas shown on these maps that are within the boundaries of the Sawtooth National Forest were carefully estimated with help from Fuels Specialist Matt Filbert, for the Sawtooth National Forest. Using the Forest Service's current vegetation data and Mr. Filbert's vegetation and fire behavior expertise, estimated fire behavior was derived and translated to fit this project's hazard ranking scheme.

AGRICULTURAL DITCHES

Through Communities at Risk's series of public meetings and personal meetings between Tom Johnson and City of Carey Officials, agricultural ditches and irrigation canals in the Carey area have been identified as a main fire hazard concern. It has been noted that fires started in ditches are likely to spread along the length of the ditch and up the sides igniting whatever is adjacent to the ditch. This puts homes, agricultural fields, hay storage, barns, and livestock all at risk.

Condition of the ditches varies greatly depending on the time of year and the condition of the agricultural fields in proximity to these ditches. They range in state, at one end being full of water with live, healthy grasses on the sides and directly adjacent to the ditch, to being bone dry, full of dead grass, decaying shrubs and debris. The condition of these ditches is certain to change depending on the time of year and whether or not they are in use for irrigation. This is the type of information best known and understood by local landowners and farmers because it is so subject to change.

Considering the changing condition of the ditches we have decided on several recommendations. First, for all ditches that are permanently empty of water it would be wise to remove all dead vegetation and thin out what is not dead, including grass as it will dry up and become a fire danger particularly in the late summer and fall. Next, for those ditches that are seasonably dry (perhaps in the fall at the end of the growing season), we recommend that grass be mowed down and the debris removed to reduce the risk of a fire burning through these ditches. Finally, ditches that are frequently full of water are less of a fire hazard than others, but should still be monitored on a regular basis as they are likely to dry up and subsequently pose an increased fire danger. Most importantly, all ditches near houses, barns, hay storage, and such, should be regularly monitored by the respective property owners and/or the fire department to determine which pose the most risk at a given time.



Legend

- Roads
- ★ Photo Points
- Private Parcels
- Bellevue Fire

Fuel Analysis Hazard Rank

- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Extreme

Fuel Hazard Ranking, Bellevue Area

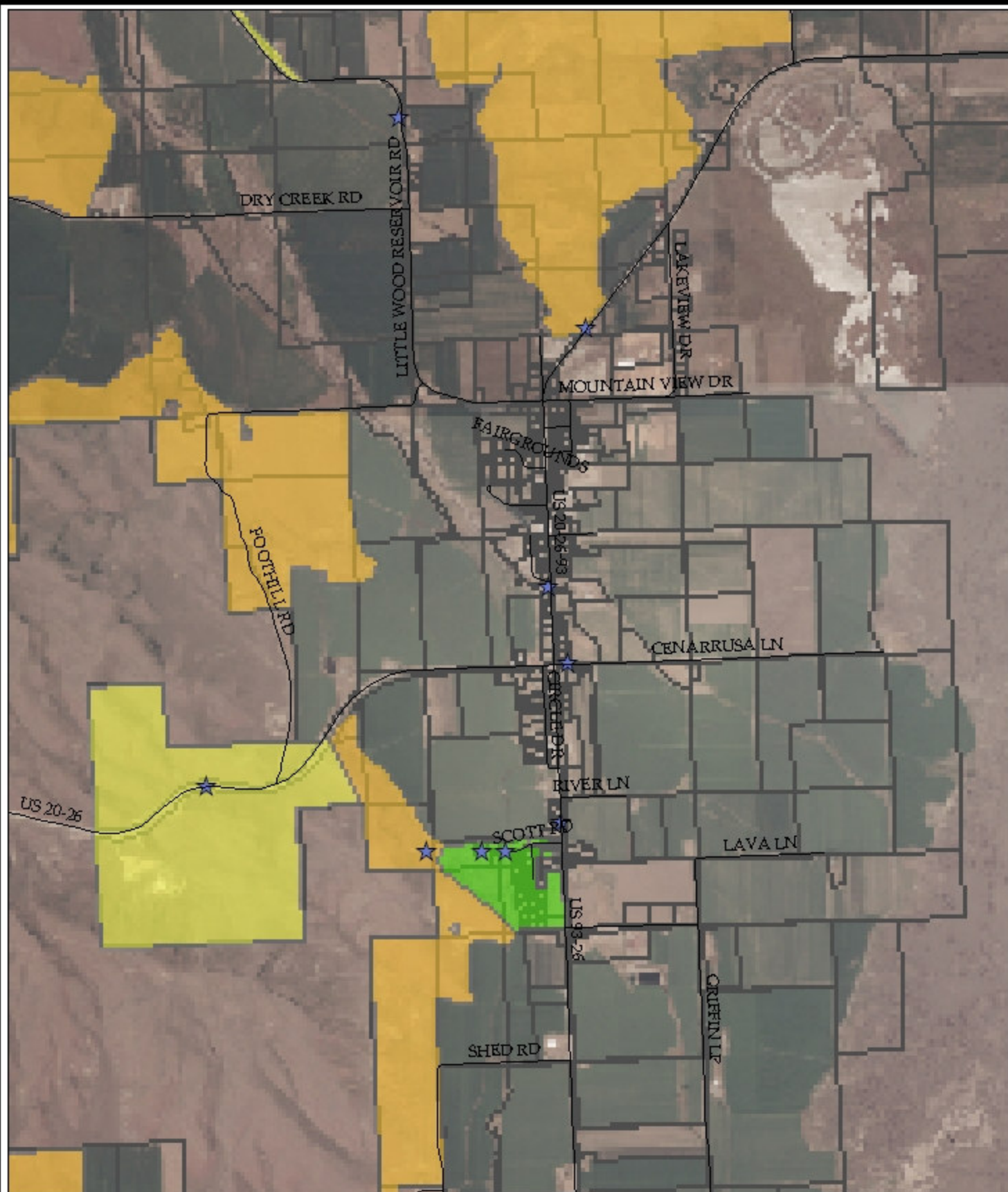
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September, 2004



Legend

- Roads
- ★ Photo Points
- Private Parcels
- Carey Fire

Fuel Analysis Hazard Rank

- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Extreme

Fuel Hazard Ranking, Carey Area

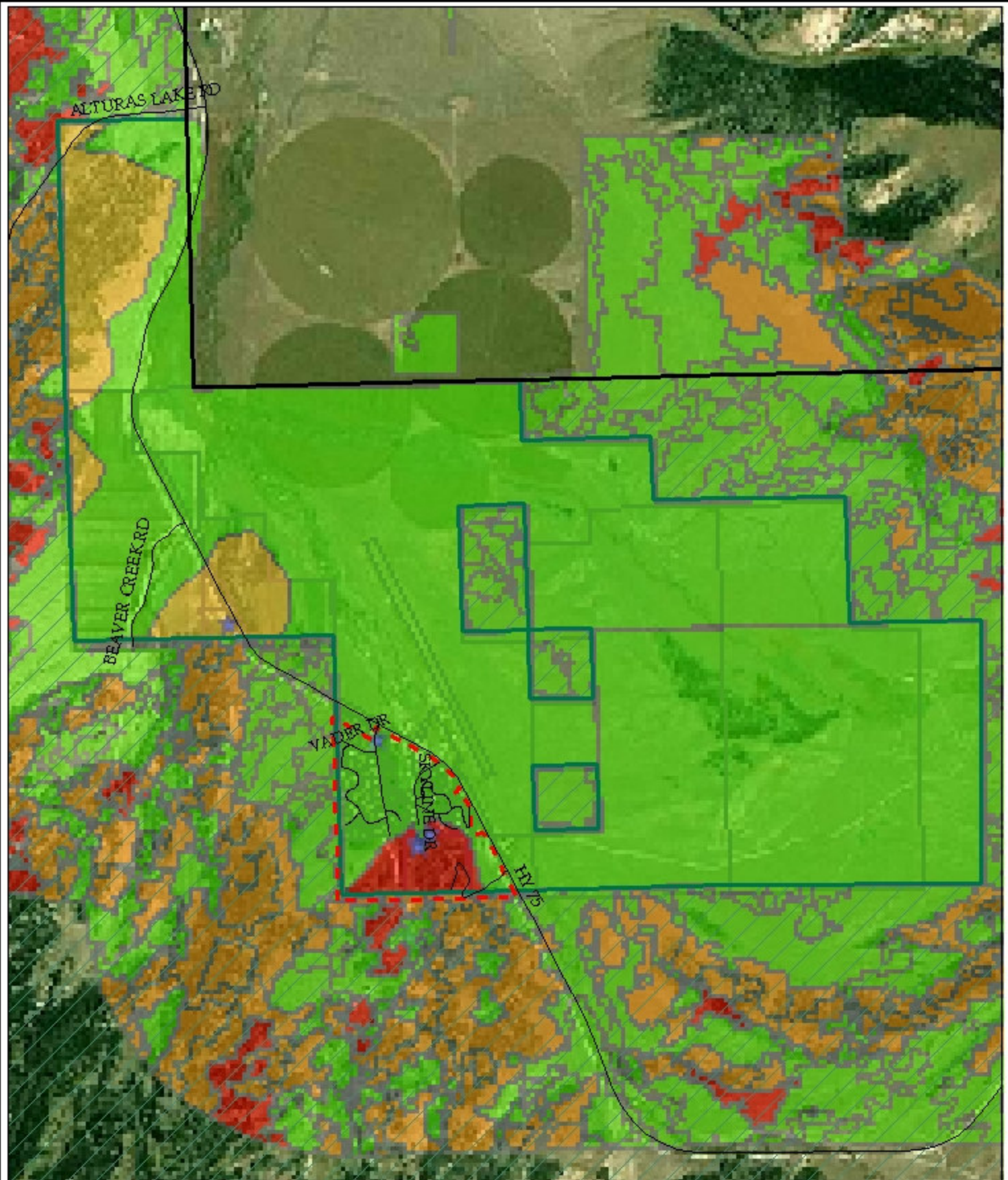
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Legend	
— Roads	Fuel Analysis Hazard Rank
★ Photo Points	Low
□ Private Parcels	Moderate
▨ Sawtooth N.F.	High
- - - Smiley Creek	Extreme
- - - Fire Protection Dist.	

Fuel Hazard Ranking, Smiley Creek Fire Protection District

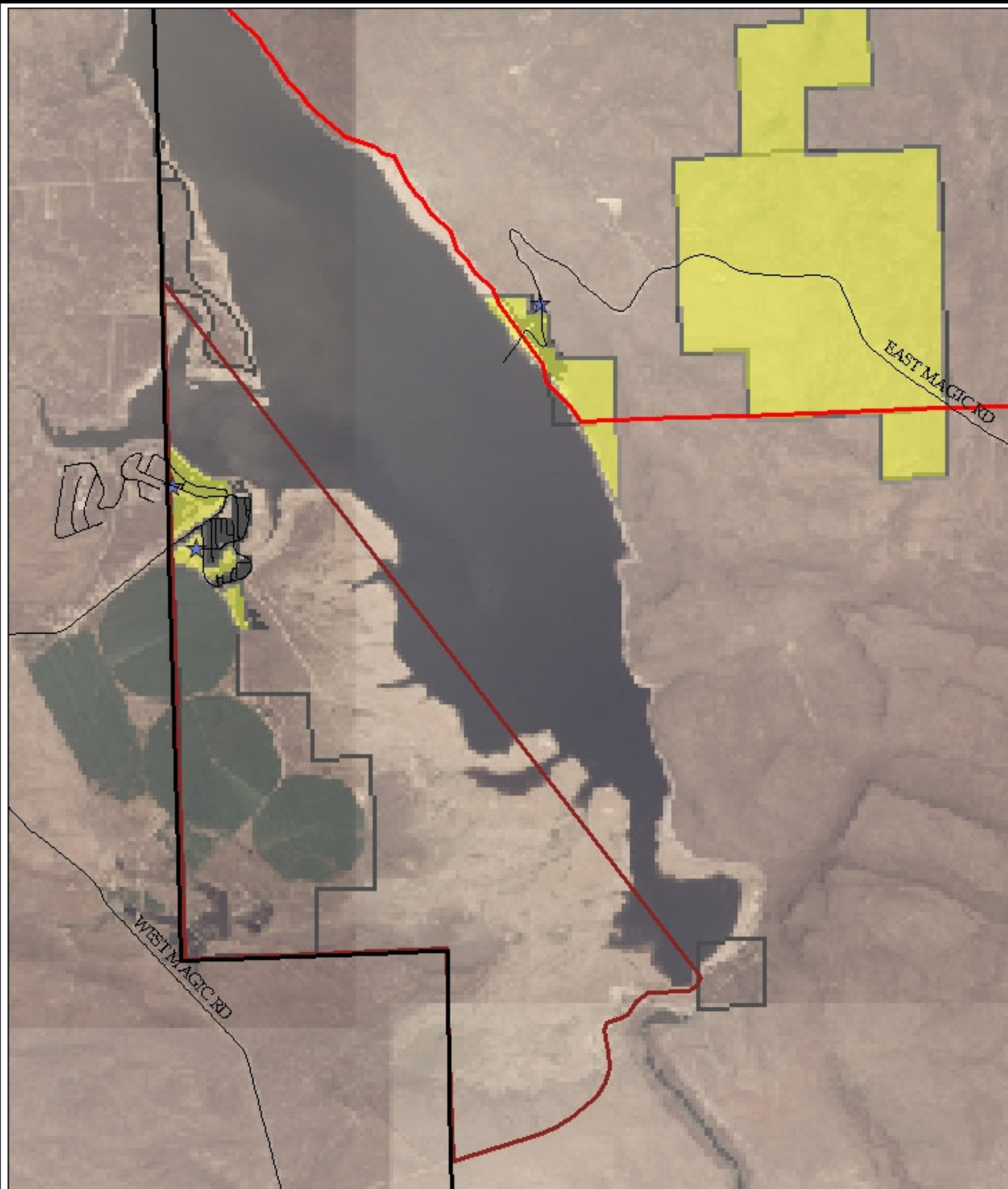
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Legend

- Roads
- ★ Photo Points
- Private Parcels
- West Magic Fire
- Fuel Analysis Hazard Rank
 - Low
 - Moderate
 - High
 - Extreme

Fuel Hazard Ranking, Magic Reservoir Area

0 0.5 Miles



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Fuel Hazard Ranking,
Carey Area



Legend

Roads

Photo Points

Private Parcels

Carey Fire

Fuel Analysis

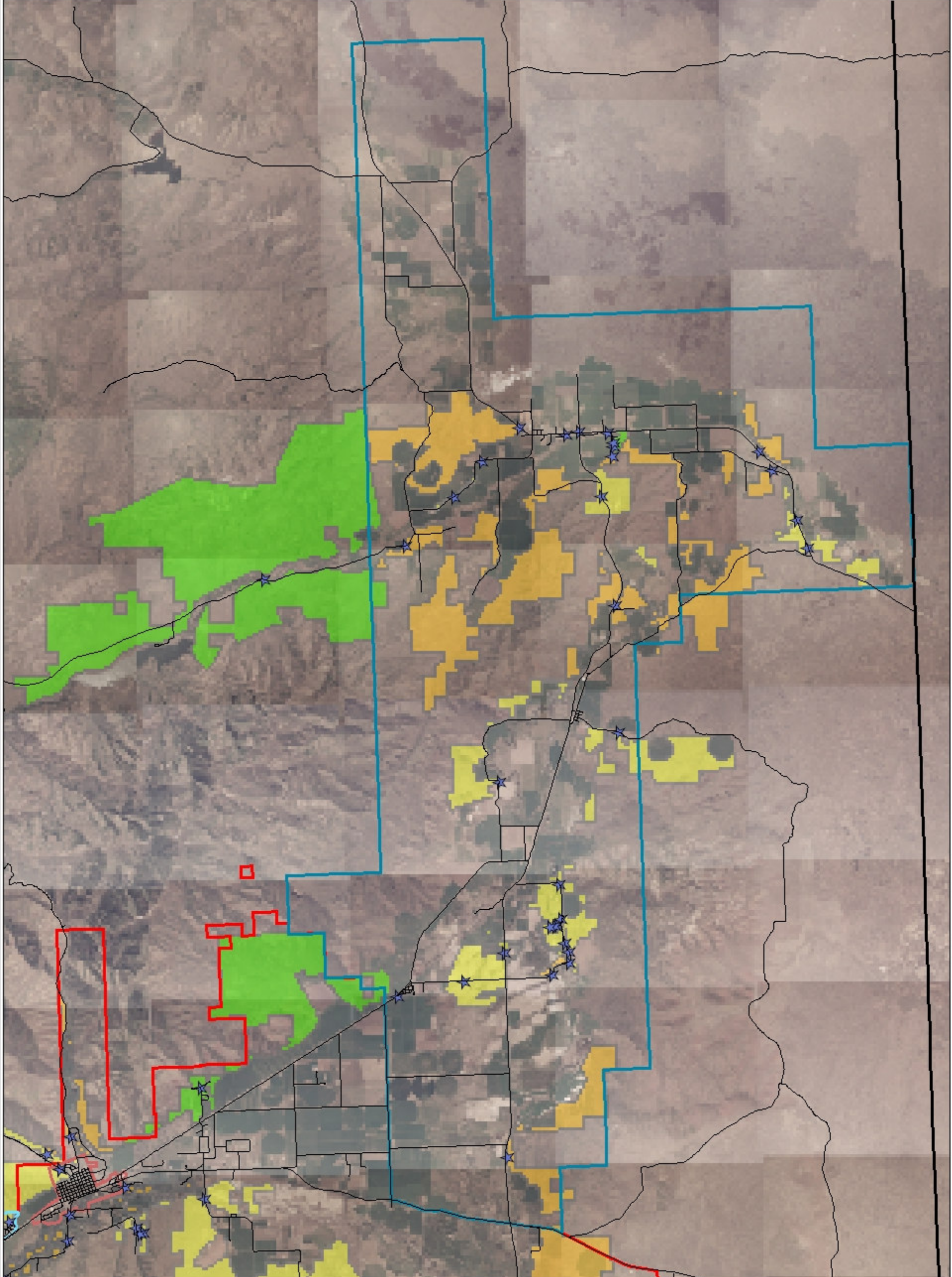
Hazard Rank

Low

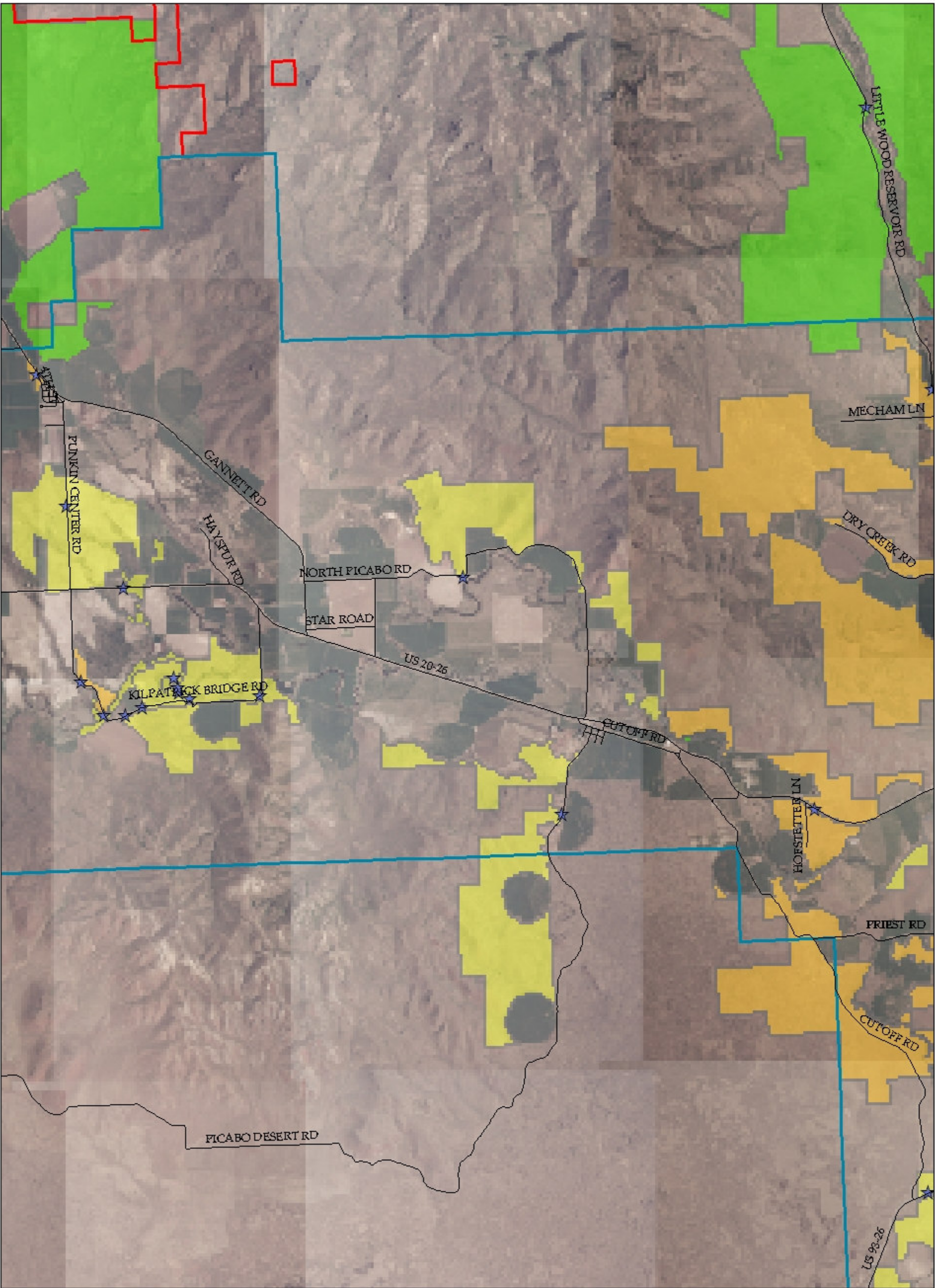
Moderate

High

Extreme



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Legend

- Roads
- ★ Photo Points
- Private Parcels
- Carey Fire

- Fuel Analysis
Hazard Rank**
- Low
 - Moderate
 - High
 - Extreme

**Fuel Hazard Ranking,
Gannett, Picabo, and Silver Creek Areas**



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